

Spark Gap

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Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*

MARC

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House Resolution 230 "A Fair Request," ARRL President Says

NEWINGTON, CT, Jun 6, 2005—ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says House Resolution 230 ([HRes 230](#)) represents “a fair request” to the FCC and deserves the support of the US House of

Representatives. Sponsored by

Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR, of Arkansas, HRes 230 calls on the FCC to comprehensively evaluate BPL’s interference potential incorporating “extensive public review and comment,” then to “reconsider and review” its new BPL rules in the light of that public input. Renewing his call for League members to contact their congressional representatives to sign on as cosponsors of the non-binding measure, Haynie said Ross’s resolution only asks the FCC to do what it should have done in the first place regarding BPL.

“What this basically asks the FCC to do is to take another look at their methodology and how they arrived at the conclusions they did,” Haynie said. The FCC adopted rules to govern so-called Access BPL last October 14 in ET Docket 04-37. “I think that’s a fair request and something that we should do as amateurs to make sure this is done right and not without a lot of haste.” Haynie says Motorola’s announcement of its *World (BPLW)* recently that he’s concerned about potential interference that BPL deployment could generate.

While HRes 230 does not specifically address the BPL concerns of the Amateur Radio community, Ross said those concerns were what led him to look more closely at BPL’s implications for the public safety community. He noted that the federal interagency emergency SHARES (SHARED RESources) network uses HF, and many states and localities still use the 30-50 MHz “low-VHF” band for public safety communications—spectrum that some BPL pilot projects also have occupied.

He said BPL’s potential to disrupt aviation operations is so great that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) successfully argued to prohibit Access BPL via medium-voltage power lines on frequencies used by commercial aeronautical communications. Ross also wants the Commission to address “without further delay” the “substantial number” of BPL interference complaints now pending at the FCC. And while he’d like to see his colleagues eventually approve HRes 230, he hopes the FCC will “take the interference issue to heart, whether or not the resolution is adopted.”

“Support HR 230”

He further expressed the hope that BPL companies will “realize it’s in their interest to treat the interference issue as a technical and engineering challenge, not as a political issue.” Regarding HRes 230 specifically, Haynie said this week that the task at hand is to encourage other House members to sign on as cosponsors of the resolution as the first step

toward House adoption. And that’s where League members come in, he said.

“I really encourage you to contact your congressional representative,” Haynie said. “It’s listed in the front of almost every phone book who your congressman is. If not, you can go to the United States House of Representatives Web site and find out by typing in your ZIP code. I really encourage you to do this because it’s important to the future of Amateur Radio.”

A sample letter is available on the ARRL Web site, but Haynie called on members to express their support for the resolution in their own words. To expedite delivery, send all correspondence bound for Members of Congress—preferably as an attachment—to hres230@arrl.org or fax it to 703-684-7594. The ARRL will bundle correspondence addressed to each Member of Congress for hand delivery.

An Open Letter to the Wasps that Used to Live in the Repeater Shack

...By Matthew Payne, KB9UJE

I'm terribly sorry. It wasn't personal.

When I saw the founders of what was to become your eventual colony arrive in the roof of the shack a few months ago, I resolved to let nature, in all of her majesty, take its course. It was even interesting to watch at first; something to pass the long tedious minutes uploading tracks to the DVR, or fixing some aspect of the repeater or controller. Your ancestors, brave wasps all, set their stake in the new world of the

repeater shack, full of purpose and direction, and promptly set about the business of building a large colony, and buzzing and stinging everyone and everything in sight, as apparently God intended. For a while, I had hoped that the peace would last. We were two different species, thrust into the same space, both hoping to valiantly conquer the obstacles set before us, while trying to avoid conflict with each other. I admired the way you built and organized your colony in the roof of the shack, and the diligent care you took in looking after your offspring. I hoped that you admired my work on the

repeater as well, and Jay's efforts in making the place more habitable for all living things, wasps included.

To be sure, your culture seemed a bit strange to me. The female dominated society in which you lived seemed to be a relative utopia, but I would have liked to see more recognition of the contributions of the male wasps in the society, as well as a greater respect for the rights of the common wasp, whose interests seemed dreadfully underrepresented in your largely oligarchical society. Still, I was prepared to accept you openly, despite the difference in beliefs.

Then there was the incident: The catalyst that changed our destiny, bringing us inevitably to this final conflict.

He (excuse me, She) might have been a rogue in your society. An outcast. A criminal. And yet her

brutal attack left me outraged. Worse, it subjected me to the ridicule of my fellow man, which found my loud ranting and raving at a small insect to be something of a lark. Oh sure, I was able to beat off the attacker with a broom by standing on the hood of one of the sheriff's patrol cars, but the damage was done. The die, as they say, had been cast. After the sheriff deputies had released me from "observation", I tried to open a dialogue with your colony, to express my desire for a redress of my grievances. I thought for sure that the current conflict could be resolved peacefully, with no further escalation of force. Sadly, this turned out to not be true. Despite all of my efforts, all of my attempts at contact, and all of my good intent, I could not reach a satisfactory settlement with your colony. Indeed, several members of your group mistook my act of negotiation as a potential treat, further exasperating my problem. Hiring a lawyer seemed pointless, and the several I contacted

seemed to also regard me as a bit of a lark, which only served to further escalate the conflict, and my anger. The end was at hand. Negotiations had failed. All that remained was the battle. My use of chemical weaponry may subject me to the harsh judgment of future generations, but I felt I had little choice.

Perhaps fate thrust us to this moment. Perhaps there could have been another way. But I'll never know.

I completely wiped out your entire civilization with a \$2.36 can of Wasp-B-Gone.

I felt no elation as I visited the scene of the carnage the next day. Indeed, my heart was heavy as I swept the hundreds of wasp carcasses out of the shack. But the choice was made, and there was no going back.

Perhaps next year, your progeny and I can try again. Perhaps then peace will reign supreme at the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club repeater shack. But I bought an extra can of Wasp-B-Gone just to be safe.

A Wasp of a Tale

**Matt Payne,
KB9UJE,
Trustee**

Officers

**President:
Ernest Clark,
KB9SKI**

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Dave Daily,
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**Secretary:
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**Repeater Trustee:
Matt Payne,
KB9UJE**

**Spark Gap Editor:
Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU**

CW Ops Whip Whippersnapper Text Messengers on National Television



NBC dressed CW champs Chip Margelli, K7JA (left, and Ken Miller, K6CTW, as old-time telegraphers. Both are ARRL members.

NEWINGTON, CT, May 16, 2005—It might have been Friday the Thirteenth, but it was a lucky day for Morse code—and particularly for veteran CW contest ops Chip Margelli, K7JA, and Ken Miller, K6CTW. During a May 13 appearance on NBC's *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, the pair was able to pass a message using good old fashioned Morse code more rapidly than a pair of teenaged text messengers equipped with modern cell phones. The victory, which replicated a similar challenge that took place recently in Australia, has provided immense encouragement to Amateur Radio's community of CW operators, who've been ballyhooing the achievement all over the Internet. The text messaging team consisted of world text-messaging champ Ben Cook of Utah and his friend Jason. Miller said afterward in a reflector posting that the CW team won fairly handily.

Margelli says the CW team used Yaesu FT-817 transceivers—one of his own and another owned by Dan Dankert, N6PEQ. Backup units—not needed—were provided by HRO; Margelli's wife Janet, KL7MF, manages an HRO store. They ended up using 432.200 MHz as an operating frequency in order to avoid RFI from the plethora of TV equipment in the studio and to avoid interfering with NBC's gear. They ran the little transceivers at their lowest power level and with the antennas disconnected—although they were mounted on the back of each unit—no problem given the close proximity involved. Margelli sent with a Bencher paddle.

Miller encouraged all who enjoyed the CW-vs-text messaging segment on NBC to contact *The Tonight*

VEC News

May 2005

John (Sid) Latham, KC9HQZ, Technician
Patrick A. Thurston, KC9HRA, Technician
Richard Graham, KC9HMN, upgrade to General
Mark F. Delbert, call sign unknown, Technician
Christopher B. Morrill, KF9PP, upgrade to Extra

Congratulations!

Show to let the producers know about it—with an eye toward having the network schedule a more elaborate segment “next time.”

“Thanks for the kind comments from all,” Miller concluded, advising “let's keep on having fun!—It is a hobby after all.”

Commented Margelli to ARRL: “I completely agree with my fantastic teammate, Ken Miller. It was a lot of fun, just like ham radio, and the show also delivered an important, if subtle, message about the benefits of the ‘basic’ communication infrastructure that Amateur Radio provides.”

Take Your HT to Work Day

On Tuesday, June 21st, every ham is encouraged to take their handheld radio to where they work. Wear your little radio on your belt, set it on your desk and by all means make it visible. The objective of this is to have your co-workers ask, “What is that?” At that point the door is open for you to say something about Amateur Radio and our wonderful hobby.

With ARRL Field Day 2005, June 25-26, the coming weekend, what a good opportunity to show how the radio works and also invite them to the Field Day activities.

I am sure that there will be others doing the same thing taking their HT with them to work so there could be more activity on some of the local repeaters on that day. It is always good to share our hobby with other people whenever possible. Hopefully, they will find it a lot of fun also.

73, Bob, N9SIU, Newsletter Editor

Reminder:

Just a reminder that Field Day is coming up on June 25th and 26th. The Red Cross Disaster Radio Group in Indianapolis, Marion County, is hosting an area event and MARC has been invited to join in. For info contact President Art Bleicher, WB9CHR. This is another public safety opportunity to show how Amateur Radio benefits the community by providing emergency communications.

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL
Tone

Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM EST

Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!

Weekly Net

Make sure to check out our weekly net, held every Sunday at 1900 (7 PM) local time. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills. Newsline is often played, allowing net participants to get the latest news about the amateur radio hobby. For those without the license or means to check in over the air, we offer an email check-in. Just send an email with your name and contact information to netcontrol@midstatehams.org, and we will record your check-in!

2005 Schedule of Events

Public Service Events and/or Educational/Testing Opportunities

JUNE

- 4 Tour-de-Cure Bicycle Event**
Indianapolis, IN
- 10-11 White River Township 13th Annual Strawberry Festival**
Pleasant Grove Elementary School, 5199 West Fairview Rd, Greenwood, IN
- 12 Wabash County 37th Annual Hamfest**
Wabash County 4-H Fairgrounds (St. Rd. 13N), Wabash, IN
- 18 MARC Meeting**
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 24-25 Olde Towne Greenwood Street Fair**
Downtown Greenwood and Craig Park, Greenwood, IN
- 25 Sprint Triathlon, Eagle Creek**
Indianapolis, IN
- 25-26 Field Day**
Amateur Radio Event - Various locations

JULY

- 9 Indianapolis Communications & Technology Expo (Indy Hamfest)**
Camp Sertoma, US Highway 52 East at German Church Road, Indianapolis, IN
- 10 Shelby County Triathlon** (event starts at 0800 EST - get there an hour early for assignment)
Talk-in on 145.480 Shelby County repeater; Fairland Hoosier Park, Fairland, IN
- 16 MARC Meeting**
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 30 Sprint Triathlon, Eagle Creek**
Indianapolis, IN

Note: For most Indianapolis events, contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, to volunteer or for more information check out website www.indyhams.org.

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131. See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

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